



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Carlos A. Moreno or
Robert Storch
(518) 431-0247

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

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ILLEGAL FIREARM SELLER INDICTED

Craryville Man Charged with Selling Firearms Without a License

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, David Harrison, Jr., Sheriff, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, and Joseph A. Anarumo, Special Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announce today the filing of a single count Indictment charging **STEVEN RODRIGUEZ**, age 20, of Craryville, New York, with unlawfully dealing in firearms.¹

The single count Indictment charges that between the dates of February 15th and August 31, 2011, **RODRIGUEZ** sold a number of firearms and that he did not have the federally required license to do so. A joint investigation by the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Agency Capital District Drug Task Force, and the State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team/Gun Investigation Unit, began in March of 2011, after Sheriff's Investigators developed information that **RODRIGUEZ** was illegally trafficking weapons from his residence in Columbia County. As mentioned above, during the investigation, **RODRIGUEZ** sold a number of firearms, which included semi-automatic and revolver handguns, and an illegally altered 9 mm carbine rifle. **RODRIGUEZ** is not a federally

¹ The charge is merely an accusation and the Defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

licensed dealer and does not possess the appropriate state or federal licenses to possess or sell handguns or altered rifles. All of the weapons sold are currently in law enforcement custody.

If convicted, **RODRIGUEZ** faces up to ten years incarceration, and a fine up to \$250,000. Rodriguez is currently released under pre-trial supervision after posting property bail at the initial appearance on a previously filed criminal complaint.

Sheriff Harrison commends all of the agencies involved and stated that ATF and the other federal and state agencies all worked together with the same intensity alongside Sheriff's Investigators in this case. He also stated that illegal firearms greatly increase the potential for violent criminal activity and that "the Sheriff's Office will use any and all law enforcement resources available to keep illegal guns off of Columbia County streets."

United States Attorney Hartunian also commended the joint investigation and stated that "it's extremely important for law enforcement to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are not legally allowed to possess them. Cracking down on the source of those weapons is a high priority mission."

Special Agent-in-Charge Anarumo stated that "stopping the illegal flow of firearms within our nation's communities is ATF's highest priority. The unlawful sale of handguns is a serious crime that feeds and amplifies the violence that is plaguing so many areas of our State. This joint effort that has led to the indictment and arrest of Steven Rodriguez for dealing in firearms without a license is a testament to law enforcement's collective resolve to stop firearms from getting into the hands of criminals."

United States Attorney Richard Hartunian's office will be prosecuting the charges in the Northern District of New York. Sheriff Harrison also said that the investigation is continuing and that Columbia County District Attorney Paul Czajka has been briefed on the case. ATF is investigating the origin of the weapons and additional charges are possible.